

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

APPENDIX B

12. A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces and end portions, each end portion having a squared cut end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, a pair of the pipe ends positioned in a parallel and an end to end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied only around the exterior surfaces of the pair of the pipe ends, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap of the first end around the pair of said pipe ends; and

a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

13. The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the coupling has means for clamping said coupling and wherein the means for clamping is positioned over the overlap of the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

14. The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the pair of pipe ends are butted as close together as possible.

25. A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, each pipe having an end positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape having a normal tensile strength of at least 80 - 110 lbs./in² to aluminum at room temperature, wherein said double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is wrapped around only the exterior surfaces of the pipe ends for providing a leakproof joint and a smooth interior surface at the joint;

and a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

26. The seal joint of claim 25 wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is precut so that a second end of the precut tape overlaps a first end of the precut tape around said pipe ends forming an overlap approximately 3/16" - 1/4" long and the coupling has a clamping means positioned over the overlap;

27. The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape further provides a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72° and 500 grams at 150°F, has a peel adhesion rating for stainless steel at room temperature of at least 18 lbs./in.

28. The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein each pipe end has an inside chamfer formed therein.

29. The sealing joint of claim 27, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed cell acrylic foam tape can be applied to the pair of pipe ends at a temperature as low as 32°F.

30. A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, the pair of metallic pipes each have a chamfered end abutted in an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied only around the exterior surfaces of the abutted chamfered ends; and

a coupling clamped over the acrylic foam tape, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has the following properties: a peel adhesion rating of at least 18 lbs/in² at room temperature for stainless steel, a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs./in², a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72°F and of at least 500 grams at 150°F, a dynamic sheer of 40 lbs./in², a static sheer of 250 grams for 10,000 minutes and a temperature tolerance of at least 160°F.